

this suggestion, I expressed a preference for the adoption of the first of these alternatives rather than the second (a) because the nominal species *Hyla venulosa* Laurenti has been commonly interpreted as representing a species having a South American center of distribution and (b) because the specific name *zonata* Spix has enjoyed scarcely any usage at all, whereas the name *spilomma* Cope has been in common use since 1945 for a Mexican and Central American species.

I have since been informed by the Secretary that a formal application for the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of linking the names *venulosa* Laurenti and *zonata* Spix (thus making the two names objective synonyms of one another) has been received from Professor Robert Mertens of Frankfurt a.M. This is exactly the solution which I myself favor and in the circumstances I have pleasure in withdrawing my proposal and in submitting in its place the present note of support for the proposal recommended by Professor Mertens.

**SUPPORT FOR A. E. ELLIS'S APPLICATION REGARDING THE  
NAME "UNIO" PHILIPSSON, 1788 (CLASS PELECYPODA)**

By **HUGH WATSON**

(Cambridge, England)

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 451)

(For the application in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 337-343)

(Enclosure to letter dated 3rd September 1956)

I strongly support the application of Mr. A. E. Ellis asking the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to validate the currently accepted usage of the well-known generic name *Unio* Philipsson, 1788, with *Mya pictorum* Linnaeus as the type species, instead of transferring the name *Unio* to the distinct genus containing *Mya margaritifera* Linnaeus, and employing the name *Limnaea* Poli, 1791, for that containing *Mya pictorum*, as the strict application of the ordinary Rules would seem to require. It is obvious that thus to transfer the name *Unio* to a different genus from that to which it has been applied for more than a century and to use in its place a name so closely resembling the well-known generic name *Limnaea* Lamarck, 1799, widely used for a common genus of fresh-water Gastropods, would cause the utmost confusion and should be prevented. But the action required for this purpose is merely for the Commission to set aside all type selections of the genus *Unio* Philipsson prior to Gray's selection of *Nya pictorum* Linnaeus made in 1847 and widely followed ever since thus making this selection definitely valid. For the Commission to reject this and all other type selections hitherto made, and then to select anew the same species itself, as suggested, might give the false impression that the selection was taken on the initiative of the Commission itself, whereas in fact it was first put forward by Gray.